

International Airport Air-Rail Link Birmingham, UK



Joining existing structures with new technology

In Birmingham, Doppelmayr Cable Car faced the challenge of utilizing the existing structure of a Maglev system and adapting the APM drive machinery, control room, and other system equipment to limited space. Doppelmayr Cable Car custom-tailored an innovative drive concept and integrated the drive machinery, maintenance facility, wash bay, and central control room into an existing building in between the two stations.

Owner Birmingham International Airport

APM Consultant Ove Arup

Scope of work General contractor for APM

system and steel guideway superstructure

Project Duration 36 months (10 months for re-

moving pre-existing maglev

structure)

Start of Operation 20

Operation & Maintenance March 2003 to March 2023 by

Doppelmayr Cable Car



When Birmingham International Airport selected Doppelmayr Cable Car, one key factor was the long-term commitment to a 20-year operation and maintenance contract guaranteeing a 99.5 % service availability.



The dual track shuttle system has two 2-car trains operating independently. The system has been in operation since 2003. The convenient Air-Rail Link takes travelers from a public transportation interchange to the check-in terminal in just 90 seconds.

Technical Data

iechnicai Data	
	System
System Length	585 m (1,919 ft)
Configuration	Cable Liner Double Shuttle®
Operating Speed	36 km/h (22.4 mph)
Headway	120 s
Dwell Time	30 s
Guideway	Elevated modular steel guideway on concrete substructure
System Capacity	1,600 pphpd
Stations	2
Trains	Two 2-car trains
Train Capacity	27 passengers/car, 54 passengers/train



Elevated steel guideway utilizing the preexisting concrete structure.



Double shuttle on elevated steel guideway.



Various train designs possible.